



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

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Manitowoc Senior Commercial Lender Wins Wisconsin's SBA 2006 Financial Services Champion Award

Manitowoc: **Timothy J. Schneider**, Sr. Vice President and Co-Founding Director of Investors Community Bank, has won Wisconsin's SBA 2006 Financial Services Champion Award.

Tim is a strong advocate for small businesses, realizing that they are the backbone of every successful community and the future of the business community. Through his entrepreneurial experience, he has gained an understanding of what the small business person goes through. The needs of the small business community prompted Tim to be part of the founding management team of an independent community bank that has a mission that emphasizes small business and agricultural lending. This avenue allows for Tim to have a personal relationship with the borrower and to be responsive to their needs.

Tim has played a key role in the formation of the Economic Development Corporation of Manitowoc County (EDC). The mission of the EDC is to lead diversified economic development efforts in Manitowoc County and part of that mission is to help small businesses obtain unconventional financing as well as other services. Tim also assists small businesses through his involvement with the Wisconsin Business Development Corporation where he is on their loan committee, long range planning committee and board of directors.

Tim is also involved in the Wisconsin Bankers Association's Leadership Development Program where he was able to meet with legislators in Washington, D.C to voice concerns and issues that need to be addressed regarding small business interests. He was in on the ground floor of the grassroots "Business Roundtable" and "Vision 2011" committees. These organizations work to expand and improve on government and the business community in working together.

The winner of this award is determined by how an individual assists small business through advocacy to increase usefulness and availability of accounting or financial services. The amount and quality of assistance given small businesses in obtaining financing outside of their regular business duties. Their advocacy of changes in the financial services industry to

assist small firms. Their encouragement of the flow of investment capital to small ventures, their active support for legislative or regulatory action designed to help small firms and other significant contributions made through financial services or accounting industry to advance small business interests.

Tim develops relationships with those who provide services to the business community to assist his customers find possible options to improve their operations. He continuously explores ways to structure financing for the businesses in the best possible way. Tim will receive his award at SBA's 21st Small Business Awards Breakfast on Friday, May 19, 2006 at the Milwaukee Marriott West in Waukesha. For more information on the Breakfast, call (414) 297-1093.

*Additional information about SBA's programs and services is available
at SBA's Web site: www.sba.gov and Wisconsin's SBA Website: www.sba.gov/wi*

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